
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information call:

Molybdenum, Monthly

John W. Blossom, Molybdenum Specialist (703) 648-4964; FAX (703) 648-7757

Lisa Harley, Statistical Assistant (703) 648-7973

Dwayne Penn, Statistical Assistant (703) 648-7972

For MINES FaxBack Using Fax Phone Call: (703) 648-4999

MOLYBDENUM IN JULY 1996

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate decreased 7% in July 1996 compared with that of the previous month and was 16% less than in July 1995, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,930 metric tons at the beginning of 1996 and 11,400 metric tons at the end of July.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS) are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in July 1996. Also included are trade data for June 1996. During July, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.409 per kilogram (\$2.000 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$7.207 per kilogram (\$3.269 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$10.086 per kilogram (\$4.575 per pound).

For the week ending September 13, 1996, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.409 per kilogram (\$2.000 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$7.606 per kilogram (\$3.450 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$10.031 per kilogram (\$4.550 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

| Item | 1995 p/ | 1996 | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| | | June r/ | July | Year to date 2/ |
| Production | 58,000 | 4,200 | 3,910 | 32,500 |
| Shipments: 3/ | | | | |
| Domestic | 13,700 | 1,110 | 1,370 | 9,160 |
| Export | 18,600 | 1,320 | 1,210 | 10,000 |

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ As reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS
IN JULY 1996 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

| End use | Molybdc oxides | Ferro molyb- denum 2/ | Ammonium and sodium molybdate | Molyb- denum scrap | Other | Total |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| Steel: | | | | | | |
| Carbon | 490 | 255 | -- | -- | W | 745 |
| Stainless and heat-resisting | 1,930 | 108 | -- | -- | W | 2,040 |
| Full alloy | 2,090 | 1,420 | -- | -- | 34 | 3,540 |
| High-strength low-alloy | 337 | 229 | -- | -- | -- | 566 |
| Tool | 839 | 30 | -- | -- | W | 869 |
| Cast irons | 17 | 363 | -- | -- | W | 380 |
| Superalloys | 672 | W | -- | 437 | 562 | 1,670 |
| Alloys: | | | | | | |
| Welding materials (structural and hard-facing) | -- | W | -- | -- | W | W |
| Other alloys 3/ | -- | W | -- | 5 | W | 5 |
| Mill products made from metal power | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,350 | 1,350 |
| Chemical and ceramic uses: | | | | | | |
| Pigments | -- | -- | 8 | -- | -- | 8 |
| Catalysts | 773 | -- | W | -- | W | 773 |
| Other | W | -- | -- | -- | W | W |
| Miscellaneous and unspecified | 9 | 139 | 785 | -- | 611 | 1,540 |
| Total | 7,150 | 2,540 | 793 | 442 | 2,550 | 13,500 |
| Stocks, July 31, 1996 | 4,670 | 1,480 | 95 | 428 | 8,340 | 15,000 |

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

| Product | 1995 p/ | 1996 | | |
|--|---------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| | | June r/ | July | Year to date 2/ |
| Gross production | 46,000 | 2,780 | 2,800 | 25,300 |
| Molybdenum product 3/ used to make other products | 23,100 | 1,680 | 913 | 12,800 |
| Shipments | 24,000 | 2,020 | 1,990 | 14,000 |

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

| Country | 1995 p/ | 1996 | | |
|--------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|
| | | May | June | Year to date |
| Australia | 650 | 18 | -- | 138 |
| Belgium | 103,000 | 8,930 | 14,700 | 78,300 |
| Brazil | 1,580 | -- | -- | 190 |
| Canada | 7,590 | 290 | 560 | 1,510 |
| Chile | 62,900 | 8,850 | 5,360 | 33,100 |
| China | -- | 1,460 | 623 | 2,270 |
| France | -- | -- | -- | 6 |
| Germany | 7,700 | 875 | 363 | 2,770 |
| Italy | 1,370 | 202 | 588 | 1,220 |
| Japan | 54,900 | 5,130 | 3,680 | 26,700 |
| Korea, Republic of | 2 | -- | -- | -- |
| Mexico | 40,400 | 6,430 | 1,580 | 26,700 |
| Netherlands | 112,000 | 3,920 | 4,620 | 26,100 |
| Singapore | 1 | -- | -- | -- |
| Spain | 121 | -- | -- | -- |
| Sweden | 6,300 | 400 | 430 | 2,370 |
| Switzerland | 324 | -- | -- | -- |
| Taiwan | 6 | -- | -- | -- |
| United Kingdom | 47,400 | 6,390 | 6,390 | 38,500 |
| Venezuela | 5 | -- | 7,200 | -- |
| Total | 446,000 | 42,900 | 39,700 | 241,000 |

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

| Country | 1995 p/ | 1996 | | |
|--------------------|---------|------|------|--------------|
| | | May | June | Year to date |
| Australia | 8 | -- | -- | -- |
| Canada | 2,230 | 306 | 210 | 1,840 |
| China | 2 | -- | -- | -- |
| Egypt | 9 | -- | -- | -- |
| Japan | 1,050 | -- | 345 | 1,790 |
| Korea, Republic of | 21 | -- | 11 | 32 |
| Malaysia | 461 | -- | -- | 621 |
| Mexico | 2,110 | 120 | 94 | 772 |
| Netherlands | 737 | -- | -- | -- |
| Singapore | -- | 110 | 133 | 521 |
| Spain | 234 | 10 | -- | 10 |
| Taiwan | 485 | -- | -- | -- |
| Venezuela | 27 | -- | -- | 13 |
| Total | 7,350 | 546 | 793 | 5,590 |

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

| Material | 1995 | | | 1996 | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | January-December | | | January-June | | |
| | Gross weight | Contained molybdenum | Value (thousands) | Gross weight | Contained molybdenum | Value (thousands) |
| Ore and concentrates roasted | 74,300 | 47,800 | \$73,400 | 41,500 | 28,500 | \$22,100 |
| Ore and concentrates other | 15,000 | 7,930 | 8,040 | 350 | 209 | 166 |
| Molybdenum chemicals: | | | | | | |
| Oxides and hydroxides | 9,180 | NA | 11,400 | 3,570 | NA | 3,060 |
| Molybdates of ammonium | 3,450 | 1,860 | 2,880 | 3,620 | 1,810 | 3,200 |
| Molybdates (all others) | 540 | 420 | 285 | 423 | 191 | 261 |
| Molybdenum orange | 6740 | NA | 2270 | 10200 | NA | 3090 |
| Mixtures of inorganic compounds | 6 | 5 | 130 | -- | -- | -- |
| Ferromolybdenum | 65500 | 41900 | 74600 | 48800 | 30800 | 36300 |
| Molybdenum powders | 1950 | 1460 | 5590 | 503 | 459 | 1460 |
| Molybdenum unwrought | 1310 | 1020 | 3560 | 511 | 476 | 1360 |
| Molybdenum waste and scrap | 4530 | 4300 | 6310 | 4780 | 4450 | 7210 |
| Molybdenum wrought | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Molybdenum wire | 11 | NA | 277 | 11 | NA | 133 |
| Molybdenum other | 27 | NA | 993 | 21 | NA | 600 |
| Total | 183,000 | 107,000 | 190,000 | 114,000 | 66,900 | 78,900 |

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.